

'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving

By Dav Pilkey

Summary

The incomparable Dav Pilkey adapts Clement Moore's classic Christmas poem to tell his wacky Thanksgiving tale. The day before Thanksgiving, eight boys and girls take a field trip to a turkey farm. They have fun playing with eight exuberant turkeys but are shocked to learn that Farmer Mack Nuggett plans to kill all the turkeys for Thanksgiving dinners. So the children decide to smuggle all the turkeys home, and all their Thanksgiving dinners become vegetarian this year. The turkeys' lives are saved!

Reading Strategies

Before Reading:

Introduce Vocabulary:

aloft, cockerel, fetch, downy, grim, terrain, miniature, clamor, gobble, waddle, abounding, polyester, dread, clatter, autumn

Picture Walk

- Before showing students the book, ask them what comes to mind when they hear the word **Thanksgiving**.
- Record all responses on chart paper and ask, "What made you think of that?" This is a good way to assess students' prior knowledge about Thanksgiving and traditions.
- Look at the cover of the book and ask students what they think the story will be about.
- Making Connections - Look at the cover, read caption and have students tell you if what they see or heard reminds them of anything they have or another book they have read.

- Questioning - Ask the students if they have any questions about the story, characters, etc. based on looking at the cover and reading the caption.
- Go through story with students, showing them only the illustrations. Some teachers prefer to cover the text during picture walks- this can be done with sticky notes. Ask students, "What do you think this page is telling us about Thanksgiving/Turkeys?" "What makes you think that?" "Is this something that we need to add to our list?"

During Reading:

- Either stop to model **connections** you have with the story or ask students to share their connections. Ask: "Does this story remind you of anything that has happened to you?"
- Model your **questions** or ask students if they have any questions as you read the story.

After Reading:

- Ask for any other **connections** they have made now that they story is over.
- Share/ask for any other **questions** now that they story is over. Review the chart to see if any of the questions were answered as you read the book.